



Clean Energy Emission Reduction (CLEER) Tool and Protocol

September 2016

THE CHALLENGE

USAID works with partner countries to establish the foundations for low emission energy systems, with a focus on helping countries build enabling environments that can attract and sustain private investment in clean energy. Under the Global Climate Change Initiative, USAID's Clean Energy activities promote the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, build human and institutional capacity, and improve the enabling environment for clean energy investment and deployment. This work seeks to transform trends in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, while promoting sustainable human and economic development.

To measure and track the GHG impact of Clean Energy programs, USAID has established two indicators:

- *EG 12-6: greenhouse gas emissions, estimated in metric tons of CO₂ equivalent, reduced, sequestered, or avoided through clean energy activities supported by USG assistance, and*
- *EG 12-7: projected greenhouse gas emissions reduced or avoided through 2030 from adopted laws, policies, regulations, or technologies related to clean energy as supported by USG assistance.*

Existing protocols for estimating GHG program benefits can be cumbersome or inefficient, may require excessive staff time and resources, and may not capture the full portfolio of USAID programs. Furthermore, if programs use different methods to estimate mitigation benefits, it renders comparisons across project types, regions, and policy frameworks challenging and ineffective. These inconsistencies inhibit the agency's ability to aggregate impacts across all USAID Clean Energy programs, a challenge when reporting program impacts to stakeholders.

ABOUT THE ACTIVITY

USAID's [Resources to Advance LEADS Implementation \(RALI\)](#) activity is helping developing countries speed their transition to climate-resilient, low-emission, sustainable economic growth. The Clean Energy Emission Reduction (CLEER) initiative under RALI addresses the above challenges by providing USAID with a user-friendly tool, available at www.cleertool.org, and consistent approach for estimating and reporting GHG emission reductions across the Clean Energy portfolio of programs, enabling USAID to:

- **Streamline reporting** to improve consistency, transparency, documentation, and accuracy across operating units
- **Identify high-impact activities** with cost-effective GHG reductions
- **Monitor, evaluate, and verify** real GHG reduction impacts of clean energy programs
- **Assess emission reduction potential** of planned activities or alternatives
- **Reduce costs and staff resources** for estimating results of climate change activities
- **Improve communication** on the impacts of U.S. climate change assistance programs
- **Help align programs** to USAID's Global Climate Change and Development Strategy and Global Climate Change Initiative



The GHG emission reduction indicators help track the impacts of USAID Clean Energy programs.

APPROACH

CLEER Tool. RALI has developed a user-friendly web platform available to the public to help users estimate and report GHG emissions avoided as a result of Clean Energy activities. It ensures that GHG mitigation calculations are accurate and consistent across programs and activities, using transparent methods and approved emission factors. The tool currently includes 13 unique technology types. The CLEER Tool also allows users to estimate projected GHG emissions reduced or avoided to 2030.

CLEER Protocol. RALI developed the CLEER Protocol to guide the estimation of GHG emissions reduced and/or avoided from USAID Clean Energy activities. This standardized protocol and the resulting tools help USAID programs report these outcomes in a consistent, transparent, and accurate manner. The CLEER Protocol earned the World Resources Institute's "Built on GHG Protocol" mark in 2016, which recognizes excellent GHG accounting resources developed in conformance with the world's most widely used GHG accounting standards.

The CLEER Tool and Protocol are accessible at www.cleertool.org. RALI continues to develop additional methodologies and calculators to quantify GHG reductions from clean energy policies, capacity building work, and other activities that target long-term, transformational impacts.

Piloting and Training. USAID continues to conduct pilot testing and training on the CLEER Tool to ensure that it aligns with available data and reporting capabilities of users. If you are interested in participating, please contact CLEERhelp@icf.com.

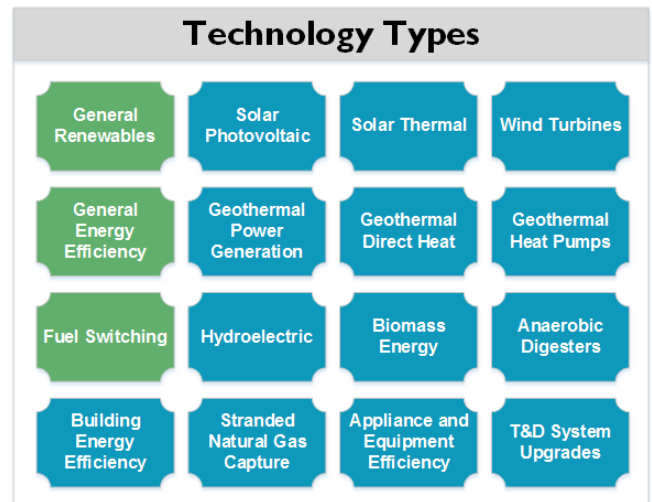
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CLEAN ENERGY EMISSION REDUCTION TOOL



Contact:

Implementer:

ICF
John Venezia, Deputy Project Director
John.Venezia@icf.com

USAID Contact:

Jennifer Leisch
Climate Change Specialist
jleisch@usaid.gov

Katherine Faulhaber
Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
kfaulhaber@usaid.gov

U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20523
<http://www.usaid.gov/climate>

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